

Tarlton, Ser. No. 09/369,134

C1 3. (Amended) The composite metal seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the annular region of relatively soft metal.

C2 5. (Amended) The composite metal seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the annular region of relatively soft metal has at least one annular groove in the neighborhood of the annular surface of the annular region of relatively soft metal.

6. (Amended) The composite metal seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the composite metal seal has a longitudinal axis, and the sealing surface is tapered with respect to the longitudinal axis.

Please cancel claims 8 and 9.

C3 10. (Amended) The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 11, wherein the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the first annular region of relatively soft metal, and the annular core of relatively hard metal is inlaid and overlaid with the relatively soft metal of the second annular region of relatively soft metal.

C4 12. (Amended) The composite metal seal ring as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first annular region of relatively soft metal has at least one annular groove in the neighborhood of the annular surface of the first annular region of relatively soft metal, and the second annular